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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

***Sri Lanka – Complex Emergency***

Fact Sheet #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

April 10, 2009

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated March 11, 2009.*

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of April 8, an estimated 61,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have crossed into Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL)-controlled territory since January and now reside in camps in Vavuniya, Mannar, and Jaffna districts.
- On April 8, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes called on the GOSL and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to allow humanitarian pauses in the hostilities.
- During a visit to Sri Lanka from April 2 to 6, the Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Walter Kälin, expressed serious concerns over the status of IDPs.
- U.N. Operational Satellite Applications Program (UNOSAT) analysis of satellite imagery taken during the month of March indicated extensive shelling occurred in and around the GOSL-designated no-fire zone in Mullaitivu District.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
<b>IDPs in camps in Vavuniya, Mannar, and Jaffna districts</b>	61,000	OCHA – April 8, 2009
<b>IDPs trapped in Mullaitivu due to GOSL-LTTE fighting</b>	150,000 – 190,000	U.N. – April 8, 2009
	150,000	ICRC – April 1, 2009
	50,000 – 60,000	GOSL – April 10, 2009
<b>Total number of IDPs in Sri Lanka including the Eastern Region</b>	281,698	UNHCR <sup>1</sup> – February 12, 2009

**HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2008 AND FY 2009**

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Sri Lanka .....	\$6,429,323
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka .....	\$43,600,000
State/PRM <sup>3</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka <sup>4</sup> .....	\$7,790,000
State/PMWRA <sup>5</sup> Assistance to Sri Lanka .....	\$600,000
<b>Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Sri Lanka .....</b>	<b>\$58,419,323</b>

**CURRENT SITUATION**

- On April 8, the U.N. reported an average of 700 to 800 civilians arriving daily at IDP transit sites in Vavuniya District.
- The GOSL Ministry of Resettlement requested that U.N. clusters in Vavuniya District re-organize into three task forces on 1) food assistance, 2) emergency relief commodities, shelter, and drainage, and 3) education, nutrition, and water, health, and sanitation, according to USAID/OFDA implementing partner United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) on April 8.
- In April, State/PMWRA awarded \$600,000 to the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action for humanitarian demining activities in the Mussali area of Mannar District. The mine clearance is expected to facilitate return and resettlement of IDPs upon completion.
- OCHA stated on April 2 that shelling continues in the no-fire zone, further limiting IDPs' access to basic resources.

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

<sup>4</sup> This figure does not include State/PRM regional South Asia support for UNHCR and ICRC, valued at more than \$6.3 million and \$28 million, respectively.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political and Military Affairs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (State/PMWRA)

- Security remains a concern for non-governmental organization (NGOs) and U.N. agencies. On April 8, an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) staff member was killed in the no-fire zone. CARE International reported on March 18 that a staff member died on the same day from wounds sustained while trapped in the no-fire zone. On March 16, the U.N. reported that the LTTE forcibly recruited two U.N. national staff and three family members.

#### ***Humanitarian Access and Protection***

- According to a USAID/OFDA regional advisor, as of April 8, GOSL authorities continued registration procedures for IDPs in Vavuniya District. Printing of national identity cards is scheduled to begin within two weeks.
- On March 6, OCHA indicated that the needs of the elderly and other vulnerable groups remain a concern in IDP camps. Over 1,560 elderly IDPs were allowed to leave camp sites as of April 8, according to the GOSL Human Rights Unit.
- OCHA also identified family reunification as a priority requiring the attention of organizations providing protection assistance. The GOSL Human Rights Unit reported on April 8 that more than 1,108 individuals were reunited with their families.
- As of April 7, UNHCR, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and ICRC staff were able to access IDP camp sites on an intermittent basis. However, several international NGOs report that receiving authorization from GOSL to provide services to IDPs in camps remains difficult, as does any sort of contact with IDPs.

#### ***Health***

- OCHA reported that, as of April 8, more than 7,500 patients and relatives departed by sea from Mullaitivu District to Trincomalee Hospital in ICRC-organized evacuations.
- The ICRC-chartered ship bound for Putumattalan in Mullaitivu District, where screening points for IDPs are located, arrived on April 2 with 15 UNICEF emergency kits. The GOSL Ministry of Health also provided medical supplies in the same shipment.
- On March 30, USAID/OFDA provided \$77,000 through the umbrella grant with UMCOR for the purchase of five emergency health kits donated to the GOSL Ministry of Health. The kits will meet the primary health care needs for approximately 50,000 hospital patients for three months.

#### ***Shelter***

- On April 7, UNHCR reported that humanitarian organizations have constructed 4,672 emergency shelters in the Manik Farm IDP site in Vavuniya District.
- According to a USAID/OFDA regional advisor, in early April the GOSL agreed to identify new IDP camp sites in Mannar District.
- On April 2, UNHCR stated that current shelter stocks can benefit up to 81,000 individuals.
- Implementing partners had started the construction of communal halls, latrines, baths, and kitchens in the Manik Farm IDP camp, as of the beginning of April.

#### ***Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene***

- OCHA reported that humanitarian agencies distributed 192 buckets and four 1,000 liter water tanks to two IDP camp sites for use in 24 communal kitchens during the last week of March.
- During the same period, implementing partners installed five water distribution systems in one camp, and renovated latrines in two other camps, according to OCHA.
- According to a USAID/OFDA regional advisor, UNICEF is working with the Water Supply Board to build a system of pumps to Manik Farm IDP camp that is expected to provide water to 100,000 IDPs by mid-May.

#### ***Food Assistance***

- To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided 19,500 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at an estimated \$15 million, to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to support IDPs and vulnerable individuals, particularly populations located in conflict-affected areas. The wheat, oil, and lentils are sufficient to support 300,000 IDPs for four months and are scheduled to begin arriving in June.
- In FY 2008, USAID/FFP provided 31,360 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$28.6 million, to WFP. This food is in country and currently represents a large portion of the commodities being distributed by WFP.
- A WFP shipment of 1,030 MT of food commodities on an ICRC-chartered ship to Putumattalan in Mullaitivu District on April 2. The assistance will benefit 100,000 IDPs for 20 days and included rice, wheat flour, lentils, oil, and sugar. NGOs provided an additional 29 MT of complementary vegetables and condiments.

**Emergency Relief Commodities**

- On April 2, OCHA noted the need to replenish the stock of hospital kits and identified significant needs for items such as clothes and shoes.
- On April 2, UNHCR reported that current stocks include kitchen sets, hygiene kits, and emergency relief commodities for at least 150,000 individuals.
- In response to identified needs, UNHCR provided emergency kits with clothing, bed sheets, shelter materials, as well as hygiene kits, in the ICRC-chartered ship which arrived on April 2.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On October 21, 2008, U.S. Ambassador Robert O. Blake redeclared a disaster in Sri Lanka due to increased conflict and resulting displacement, requesting USAID/OFDA support for FY 2009.
- To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.5 million to assist IDPs and returnees, including support for health, logistics, protection, disaster risk reduction, agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, shelter and settlements, humanitarian coordination and information management, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.
- On February 16, the U.S. Embassy in Colombo and USAID/Sri Lanka established a Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT), led by a USAID/OFDA regional advisor deployed to Sri Lanka, to monitor humanitarian conditions, facilitate USG assistance, and coordinate with other humanitarian actors.
- In mid-February, the U.S. Department of Defense U.S. Pacific Command deployed a Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team (HAST) to Colombo to coordinate with the HAT and the GOSL on potential humanitarian response activities. The HAST completed the assessment on February 23.
- To date, USAID/FFP provided 19,500 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, with an estimated value of \$15 million, to WFP to support IDPs and vulnerable individuals.
- To date in FY 2009 State/PRM provided \$1.8 million to UNHCR and \$4 million to ICRC for activities that protect and assist IDPs in Sri Lanka. State/PRM also supported UNHCR and ICRC regional programs in South Asia, valued at more than \$6.3 million and \$28 million, respectively.
- To date in FY 2009, State/PMWRA provided \$600,000 for humanitarian demining in Mannar District.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO SRI LANKA  
FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2008 AND FY 2009**

<b>FY 2009</b>			
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
UMCOR	Umbrella Award for Small Grants in Health, Protection, Risk Reduction, Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$1,500,541
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA TO SRI LANKA TO DATE IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$1,500,541</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	19,500 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$15,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$15,000,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></b>			
UNHCR	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$5,800,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$5,800,000</b>

STATE/PMWRA			
Swiss Foundation for Mine Action	Humanitarian Demining	Mannar District	\$600,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRWRA ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$600,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$22,900,541</b>
FY 2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE <sup>1</sup>			
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Batticaloa District	\$599,999
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Economy and Market Systems	Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$605,000
Internews	Humanitarian Coordination and Management	North, North-Central, and Easter Provinces	\$826,851
NRC	Protection	Batticaloa, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$614,991
UMCOR	Umbrella Award for Small Grants in Health, Protection, Risk Reduction, Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts	\$1,000,000
WFP	Logistics, Emergency Relief Supplies	Countrywide	\$1,250,000
USAID/Sri Lanka	Administration and Logistics	Countrywide	\$31,941
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$4,928,782</b>
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE <sup>2</sup>			
WFP	36,260 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$28,600,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$28,600,000</b>
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE <sup>3</sup>			
UNHCR	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,990,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$1,990,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$35,518,782</b>
FY 2008 AND FY 2009 USG <sup>4</sup> HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE			
USAID/OFDA			<b>\$6,429,323</b>
USAID/FFP			<b>\$43,600,000</b>
STATE/PRM			<b>\$7,790,000</b>
STATE/PMWRA			<b>\$600,000</b>
<b>TOTAL FY 2008 AND FY 2009 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>			<b>\$58,419,323</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 10, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

<sup>3</sup> This figure does not include State/PRM regional support for UNHCR and ICRC, valued at more than \$6.3 million and \$28 million, respectively.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Government (USG)

## **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)